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Breaker
MAGAZINE

Mar - May 2011 Edition 54

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TASMANIA'S ANTARCTIC NEWS AND VIEWS



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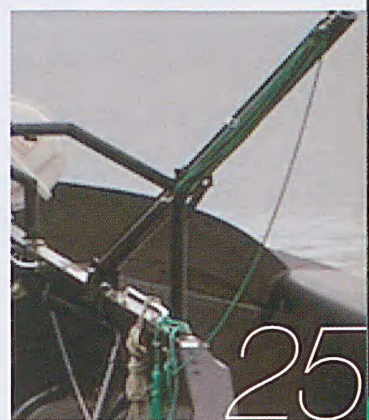
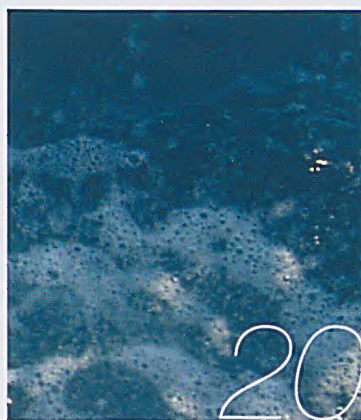
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Cover picture

Courtesy Frederique Olivier



Editorial

The summer months have been full of maritime-based events around Hobart's waterfront. Reports on several of them are in this edition. Special thanks must go to Rob Mann, DED, for my Umitake Maru visit, and to ship photographers Derek Hagstrom, Thomas Jupe and Esmee Vanwijk.

IB welcomes articles from David O'Byrne, the new Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, as well as from Cassy O'Connor for the Greens, renewing IB's three political parties' viewpoints.

Both the State Government and the Tasmanian Polar Network will be developing and activating their Antarctic and Southern Ocean Strategic Plans this autumn, so I hope these will motivate businesses to promote their polar profiles during the Antarctic Centennial Year.

Anthea Wallhead

Editor, Ice Breaker



The stern of the Umitaka Maru.

ICE Breaker MAGAZINE

Ice Breaker magazine is published independently by Icewall One as a quarterly magazine covering Tasmanian Polar and Southern Ocean related topics.

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Advertising Rates:
Available online at icebreakermagazine.com

Subscription Rates:
Australia wide: \$38.00
International: \$48.00

(All prices AUD and inclusive of GST where applicable)

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Thanks to Klaus Arne Pedersen, Sue Halliwell and Frederique Olivier for their permission to use their Antarctic photographs.

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SUNDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2011

EXCLUSIVE: Airbus A319 Antarctic landing video

Airbus A319 Antarctic landing

Wilkins Runway in Antarctica has been unused this season because of unusually warm temperatures. The runway, which opened in 2008, sits on 500 m of ice, inland from Casey Station.

According to Rob Haman, SKM surveyor:

"The ambient temperature needs to be low enough (below -5 degrees C) so that the ice has as much friction as possible. The ground crew use a Caterpillar machine to create a fluffy icy surface on the blue ice. Aircraft land at Wilkins at around 7am which is hopefully the coldest time of day. The runway itself is approximately 2% uphill grade and 3.6km long. Pulling up isn't really the issue but the manoeuvring during taxiing at each end. A decent breeze will blow the aircraft sideways (and possibly off the runway) as the tyres will have very little traction if at all. During a landing, the tyres will leave a skid mark on the ice and the prepared surface is usually blown away too, due to the engine thrust."

The Airbus A319 has been flying to Christchurch, NZ and USA's McMurdo Station when not able to land at Wilkins Runway.

MONDAY, 24 JANUARY 2011

100 Years of Australian Antarctic Expeditions

One hundred years ago, Douglas Mawson began planning a new scientific expedition to the Antarctic coast south of Australia. On 2 December 1911, Mawson's plans came to

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Magazine

Ice Breaker is a quarterly magazine published by the designers of the Igloo Science Centre, (Kewell One), and includes in every edition:

- A report from the Minister for Antarctic Affairs and comments from other political parties
- Information from Antarctic, Tasmania and the ACE CRC
- A message from the Chairman of the Tasmanian Polar Network
- Polar Publications and websites
- Special Features on Antarctic goods and services
- The latest Polar News
- Historical features

FROM THE OLD EDITION

ICE Breaker

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Gallery

These are just some of the amazing images featured in every edition of Ice Breaker magazine

(Hover cursor over image title to see thumbnails)

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David O'Byrne

The forthcoming Antarctic Centennial Year (ACY) provides a once-in-a-hundred-year opportunity to further promote Tasmania...

I am delighted to have the responsibility for Tasmania's ongoing role and relationship with the Antarctic, Sub-Antarctic and Southern Ocean as part of my Innovation, Science and Technology portfolio.

This is a splendid time to be given this responsibility. The forthcoming Antarctic Centennial Year (ACY) provides a once-in-a-hundred-year opportunity to further promote Tasmania as a pre-eminent centre for all Antarctic and Southern Ocean-based activities.

From May 2011 to June 2012, the nation's (and occasionally the world's) focus will be on Tasmania, providing us with opportunities to consolidate our claim as being an international Antarctic hub of expertise and the centre of Australia's Antarctic, Sub-Antarctic and Southern Ocean science and research activities.

The 100th anniversary celebrations are for two significant historical events: the departure of Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition and Amundsen's announcement from Hobart's GPO of his achievements in visiting the South Pole. The ACY will validate Tasmania's unique historical connection with Antarctica and provide opportunities to promote our contemporary connections.

A significant event early in the ACY is the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO) Conference from 9-12 May 2011. With over 80 delegates from around the world discussing Antarctic tourism, this conference is an ideal opportunity to show-off Hobart's attributes and potential as a base for Antarctic tourism.

The development of the state's Economic Development Plan is well underway with new Advisory Committees having been established to play a key role in representing their individual industry sectors during the Plan's formulation. Significantly, one of these is the Science and Research Advisory Committee (SRSAAC), headed by the independent Chair, Dr Graham Mitchell. Graham is recognised as one of Australia's leading biological scientists; he is a former Tasmanian Innovation Advisory Board member and joint Chief Scientist for the Victorian Government.

SRSAAC is comprised of representatives from leading existing research organisations: the University of Tasmania; the CSIRO and the Australian Antarctic Division, together with targeted priority research areas.

This committee will provide advice to the State Government on science and research issues as well as contributing to the ongoing development of a science and research sector growth strategy. Industry peak body the Tasmanian Polar Network (TPN), together with the Tasmanian Antarctic Gateway Group (TAG) will continue to provide the Government with advice on the Antarctic and Ocean sector on behalf of its 60 member organisation.

I look forward to SRSAAC's recommendations and input into this important strategy for the state's future growth.

David O'Byrne MP

Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology



Aurora Australis loading for Antarctica. Photo courtesy Derek Hagstrom, Tasports.



Matthew Groom

Climate change does impact us; we do have the capacity to influence outcomes...

As the Tasmanian Shadow Minister for Climate Change I am often asked to speak on this issue to audiences of very different make-up, background and perspective.

I never cease to be amazed by the strength of reaction to the mere mention of the phrase 'climate change'. It instantly triggers strong emotional reaction from an audience - typically at the polar ends of the spectrum.

Some are drawn to thoughts of apocalyptic outcomes and the need to do anything and everything in response no matter the cost. Others seem determined to dismiss the issue as a grand conspiracy that presents not a policy dilemma but a political enemy to be defeated at all costs. I think the polar reaction is a very unfortunate consequence of the way the policy debate has unfolded, not just in this country, but around the world.

I don't say this because I think there should be consensus thinking on the issue. I think with an issue as difficult as climate change we do not want consensus thinking, but neither do we want an emotionally driven, polarised debate.

I am a strong believer that on most policy issues the truth is usually in the middle and an intelligent and rational debate about the risks and options for most efficiently and effectively mitigating them is where we all need to be if we are to achieve the most optimal outcome.

But one response I quite often receive that really does bewilder me is the suggestion that climate change is not really a matter of concern to Tasmania: that we are so small and insignificant that we could not possibly make a difference.

This is a comment that is often made not just in the context of Tasmania but also of Australia itself. There is no truth in this.

Climate change does impact us; we do have the capacity to influence outcomes and we have a responsibility to do so. If we don't seek to address this issue then why should anyone else? Tasmania has a strong background in climate change related research - and Antarctica is at the centre of it.

Australia currently claims 42 per cent of the continent of Antarctica as its territory - almost 6 million square kilometres, and Tasmanian-based scientists have a long history of conducting research in order to discover, understand and protect this region we often claim as our own.

The impacts of the change in temperature patterns in Antarctica are becoming more apparent although not always in a way that you might intuitively expect.

Just recently a team of marine scientists returned aboard the Antarctic exploration vessel the Aurora Australis from a month long expedition to Antarctica to survey the Mertz Glacier in East Antarctica after it was damaged following a collision with an iceberg.

According to expedition leader and oceanographer Steve Rintoul, the Mertz Glacier provides marine scientists with a great deal of information about changes in climate patterns.

The expedition's objective was to investigate new life forms as well as the impact of climate change in the area, including measuring how much carbon dioxide is being stored in the ocean. The team is currently reviewing their findings, which will be closely monitored by the research community around the world.

The centre responsible for the expedition, The Antarctic Climate and Ecosystem Cooperative Research Centre, is of course based in Hobart as are a number of the marine scientists who participated in the expedition.

This is just one example of the important role Tasmania can play in adding to our understanding of the climate change issue and hopefully a more informed and balanced debate about how we should respond to it.

Matthew Groom MP

Tasmanian Shadow Minister for Climate Change

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Cassy O'Connor

...these mammals should be afforded every possible recognition and protection...

As I write, the über high-tech vessel Gojira is ferociously dogging a Japanese ship, which the Sea Shepherd crew have dubbed the 'Cetacean Death Star', across the Southern Ocean. After a short break over Summer, Gojira sat like a powerful, menacing beast on Hobart's waterfront; an awesome example of 21st technology used for a power of good - to fight for the lives of whales Japan continues to hunt.

Without Sea Shepherd, there is no-one to defend the Minke, Humpback and Fin whales in their breached sanctuary during these months of hunting. While the Australian Government stalls on the diplomatic path and threatens international legal action, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society is the de facto enforcer of the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary. It is a source of enduring frustration to all of us who want to see an end to Japan's violent and needless belligerence!

Closer to home and in recent migratory seasons, Tasmanians have been captivated by the sight of whales returning to our local marine environment. Tasmanian waters hosted the birth of a Southern Right Whale calf in the Derwent estuary for the first time in 190 years, as well as a visit by Humpbacks off the Tasman Peninsula and Wedge Island, another visit by Humpbacks near Coles Bay and Eaglehawk Neck, and the sighting of a Southern Right Whale in Sullivans Cove, and off Taroona and Kingston.

While Tasmanian law does seek to protect whales and dolphins, it does not specifically declare State waters a Whale Sanctuary. Hunted inside an unsafe whale sanctuary to our south, these mammals should be afforded every possible recognition and protection in our waters, but this is not the case, yet.

In Parliament late last year, I tabled the Tasmanian Greens' Whales Protection (State Sanctuary) Amendment Bill 2010, to establish a general ban on the taking of whales within State waters, which extend three nautical miles from the state's coastline.

The Greens' proposal for a ban on killing whales within Tasmanian State waters would give our cetacean guests the respect they deserve, and provide a permanent and formal safe haven around our coastline.

Our Bill will fill the gap between the Tasmanian coastline and where the Commonwealth waters commence off-shore, and will prohibit anyone assisting in the taking of, or interfering with, whales, which legislation does not currently stipulate. Through banning any assistance to the killing of whales, our Bill will also prevent whalers in the Southern Ocean using chartered flights out of Tasmania to track and avoid conservation groups such as the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

We hope both Labor and the Liberal parties will support our common sense Bill when it comes to the Parliamentary debate and vote later this year. Why wouldn't they? A formal Tasmanian Whale Sanctuary will legislate a safe haven in Tasmanian waters for these wild creatures who truly grace us with their presence when they come to our shores.

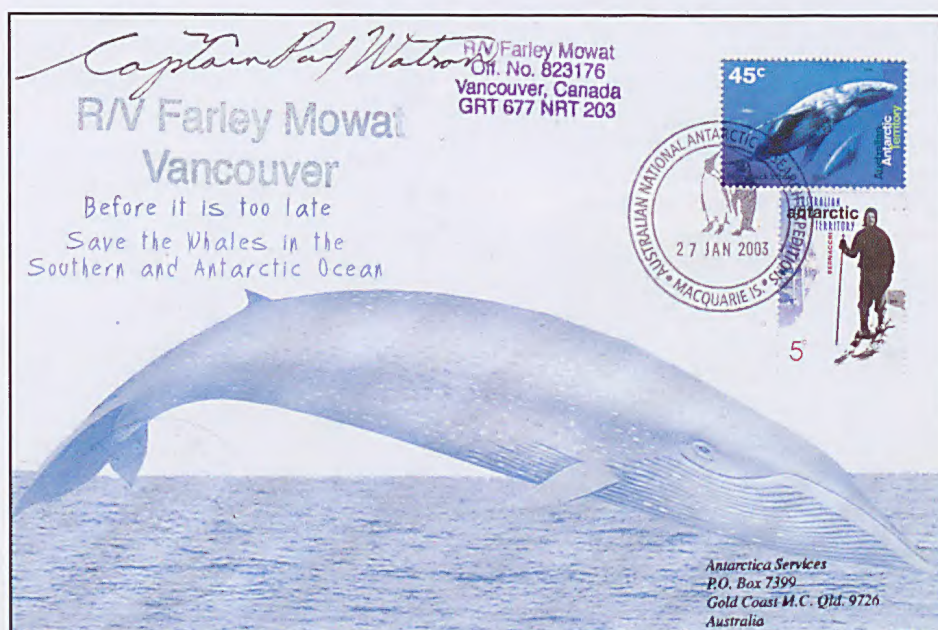
Cassy O'Connor

Greens Party

Whale update

The Japanese have ceased hunting whales six weeks early this season, due to persistent Sea Shepherd interference.

Below: Stamp cover commemorating Sea Shepherd's anti-whaling activities in 2003.



The Antarctic Centennial Year

Many promotional opportunities are available

An extraordinary year of events and activities commencing in May 2011 will further acknowledge and promote Hobart's status as Australia's Antarctic gateway and as a pre-eminent global centre of Antarctic, Sub-Antarctic and Southern Ocean-related endeavours.

The Antarctic Centennial Year (ACY) will commence with an official launch at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. The launch, on 6 May 2011, is scheduled to coincide with the opening of an exhibition of the Extreme Environment Photographic Competition finalists. The photographic competition is already underway with enthusiasts busily taking and selecting their images for inclusion in the exhibition and the chance to win valuable prizes.

Also scheduled for May this year is the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO) Conference which has so far attracted over 80 delegates from around the world.

Hosting the IAATO Conference will help promote Tasmania as a relevant port for any Antarctic or Southern Ocean-bound cruise. This conference provides a unique opportunity to show-case the state's historic and contemporary connections with Antarctica and the Sub-Antarctic.

The cruise-ship sector of Tasmania's tourism industry is quite lucrative with 79,600 cruise ship passengers and crew visiting Tasmania in the 2009-10 cruise-ship season, injecting an estimated \$9.5 million into the Tasmanian economy.

Currently south-bound cruises represent a small proportion of this visitation with Antarctic cruise ships Orion, Akademik Shkalksiy and Professor Khromov making two or three Tasmanian visits each annually. There is an obvious potential for growth in this growing sector of the cruise market that the IAATO conference may highlight.

IAATO also presents a wonderful opportunity for Tasmania to promote other wilderness and remote-region cruise options such as Port Davey.

The guest lecturer for the Phillip Law Lecture, as part of the ACY, is Tom Griffiths, Professor of History and Director, Centre for Environmental History, Australian National University. Since 2002, the Phillip Law Lecture has invited noted academics, statesmen and scientists to give a public lecture on an Antarctic theme.

Left: Map showing Amundsen's and Scott's routes to the South Pole in 1911 and 1912.



This year's Phillip Law Lecture will be held at the CCAMLR Headquarters, Macquarie Street, Hobart on 31 July 2011 and should also attract significant attention. The third Sub-Antarctic Forum opens the following day (Monday 1 August).

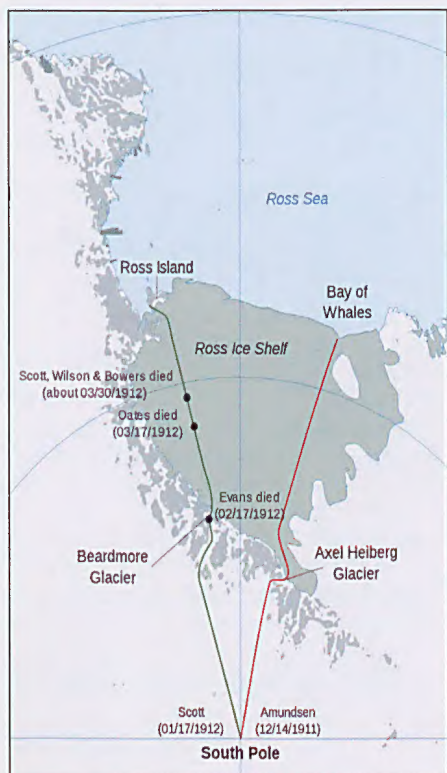
The two centenary celebrations (namely Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition departure and Amundsen's announcement of his conquest of the South Pole) should attract global interest and present excellent opportunities for Tasmania to re-affirm its claim of having a unique historical and contemporary connection with Antarctica.

The ACY generally will provide opportunities to promote Tasmania as an international Antarctic hub of expertise and the centre of Australia's Antarctic, Sub-Antarctic and Southern Ocean science and research activities.

An advisory group comprising representatives of the Australian Antarctic Division, the National Archives of Australia, Antarctic Tasmania, the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, the Tasmanian Polar Network, Hobart City Council, the Mawson's Huts Foundation and others has been formed to assist with planning and communications to maximise on these and other opportunities presented by the ACY.

More information about ACY activities can be found at www.antarcticcentennial.tas.gov.au

Information supplied by Antarctic Tasmania.





John Brennan

Invest in what we have - Do we have more than one bird in the hand?

A rather long title I know. I googled the origin of the phrase "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" and then reflected upon how this may relate to the situation we have with respect to the intellectual and tangible assets we have within the Tasmanian Antarctic and Southern Ocean sector.

I propose that the phrase could be self-limiting at times. To articulate what I mean let us just look at what we actually do have here with the sector and ask ourselves if it amounts to only one bird in hand or many.

- We have institutions including AAD, CSIRO, BOM, ACE-CRC, IMAS/UTAS and AMC.
- The French Antarctic program (IPEV) operates out of Hobart and has done so for many years.
- What a coup to host the international secretariats for CCAMLR and ACAP and previously, COMNAP.
- We have world-class cultural activities including TMAG's "Islands to Ice" display, midwinter celebrations and polar pathways interpretation.
- The sector enjoys longstanding solidarity and support from all political areas.
- A strong commitment from the state government is substantiated by the existence of Antarctic Tasmania, Science and Research.
- Hobart has an amazing natural, deep water harbour.
- Lastly but not least, the TPN has proved its worth to its members and continues to represent the interests of the sector.

Now with all that said, I think one could agree that maybe we have many birds in the hand. So if we want to get back to the original phrase can we distil this outstanding list down to the kernel?

I would like to propose, without prejudice of course, and it is my view, that probably the most important card in the pack is the AAD. The science, logistics and other activities, including collaboration between organisations already named is truly significant to the whole sector, but AAD is at the hub.

So what of investment for the future? How can the sector consolidate and secure what it has and also jump forward to flourish in the future? Courtesy of a recent release in Canberra under the Freedom of Information Act, it is now no secret that the AAD have an idea where they wish to be headed in the future. Some of the initiatives include building next generation stations; expanding remote range/deep field access; addressing legacy contamination; increasing international collaboration; updating logistics for shipping and expanding airlink networks.

This is exciting stuff! What I take from this is that if we are to nurture and grow the sector we all need to make sure that we look after the interests of our strategic partner-AAD. If Australia is to further its influence in the Antarctic Treaty, protect the environment, undertake leading science and collaborate with other nations, it will be essential that they are funded accordingly. The investment now will surely set us up for the future. For Tasmania, if we know there is funding and political commitment to towards the initiatives of AAD we can then hinge our investment, planning and economic strategies off this knowledge.

On the same hand, the Tasmanian government must continue its good will and support and not back away from the investment that is so needed to keep the business alive and well. It's close to budget time and maybe some tough considerations. This sector does not need cuts.

Let us invest in all the birds we have in hand and not lose sight of what we have in the pursuit of chasing other gems to place in our collection.

John Brennan

Chairman, Tasmanian Polar Network

Acronyms

AAD Australian Antarctic Division

CSIRO Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation

BOM Bureau of Meteorology

ACE CRC Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems Co-operative Research Centre

IMAS Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies

UTAS University of Tasmania

AMC Australian Maritime College

IPEV Institut Paul Emile Victor (France)

CCAMLR Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

ACAP Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

COMNAP Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs

TMAG Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

IMOS Integrated Marine Observing System

ATSR Antarctic Tasmania, Science and Research



CSIRO news

Australian marine services company Teekay is set to deliver a world-class research ship that will help science better understand our oceans, climate change and weather.

Given the name RV Investigator (above) after a national naming competition, the 89-metre ship will accommodate 40 scientists and cover 10,000 nautical miles in each voyage. Scientists from around the world will use the ship to undertake vital marine research that will inform our sustainable ocean management practices.

Celebrating the signing today of a contract between Teekay and the Australian Government for the design and construction of the RV Investigator Innovation Minister, Senator Kim Carr said the commissioning of the ship represents the Gillard Labor Government's commitment to provide our scientists with the best kit possible.

"Australia has the world's third largest ocean territory. It is rich in unique biodiversity and valuable resources. But only 12 per cent of the area is mapped," Senator Carr said.

"The long-range research ability of the RV Investigator will allow scientists to understand our entire oceans - from the tropical north to the Antarctic ice-edge.

"I am pleased Teekay will be delivering the project. They have an impeccable track record in marine services and I believe they are well placed to deliver this important national research tool."

Teekay Holdings Australia Pty Ltd was selected following a rigorous procurement process undertaken by the CSIRO. During the process, Teekay showed they could design and build the RV Investigator while delivering value for money based on their extensive ability.

The RV Investigator will be built in Singapore, by Teekay's

partners Sembawang Shipyard Pty Ltd. As a condition of their approved Australian Industry Participation Plan, Teekay will ensure Australian suppliers and expertise are used where possible.

The CSIRO will own and operate the RV Investigator on behalf of the Australian research community. The ship is scheduled to begin operating by mid 2013 and will be used by Australian universities, research organisations and their international collaborators.

The RV Investigator will replace the RV Southern Surveyor, operated by Australia's Marine National Facility.

For more information on the RV Investigator, visit www.csiro.au/science/FutureResearchVessel.html.

East Coast glider yields valuable ocean data

The influence ocean eddies have on marine life in the oceans surrounding Australia's south-east is expected to become clearer after scientists examine data from new deep-diving research 'gliders' patrolling the East Australian Current.

CSIRO scientists and technicians last month retrieved one of three gliders working in south-east Australia after a five-month program crisscrossing the East Australian Current.

"We will see in significantly more detail than ever before the profile of the ocean eddies spinning off the East Australian Current which are critical to shaping the composition of the biological hotspots driving fisheries production and supporting marine life," says oceanographer Ken Ridgway at the CSIRO Wealth from Oceans Flagship.

South-west of Tasmania another glider has been measuring a deep ocean current called the Tasman Outflow, that feeds into the global network of ocean currents.

The project is funded through the Australian Climate Change Science Program, a joint program between CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology and the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

Mr Ridgway is Bluewater and Climate Node co-leader in Australia's Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS), a \$100 million project to study the oceans and seas around Australia. IMOS provides research infrastructure around the country, including these gliders, to deliver data streams for use by the entire Australian marine and climate science community and its international collaborators.

The IMOS fleet of deep ocean gliders also operate in the waters off New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia. They are piloted from the University of Western Australia.

The glider observing the East Australian Current travelled up to 250km east of Tasmania, making eight crossings in total of the Current, and taking measurements of temperature and salinity to a depth of 1000m.

Mr Ridgway said CSIRO has been working with the Sydney Institute of Marine Science studying the ocean eddies formed in the EAC and moving southwards.

"Glanders allow us to investigate these processes in considerably more detail and are a tremendously exciting option for ocean scientists

"The latest design can descend to nearly 6000m and remain at sea for up to 18 months," Mr Ridgway said.

Craig Macaulay, CSIRO

Marine Discovery Centre News

The Marine Discovery Centre is operated by the Tasmanian Department of Education as part of Woodbridge School. The Centre runs programs for students from Kinder to grade 12, and is visited by more than 6000 students each year.



Redevelopment

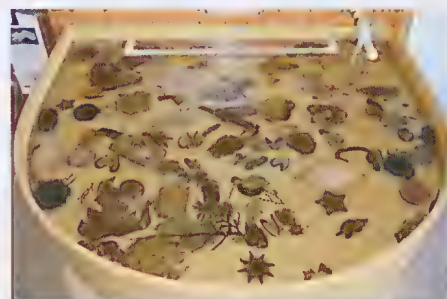
Towards the end of 2010 the Centre received some much needed extra support from the Department of Education to enlarge the facilities for secondary students. Plans were drawn up to increase the size of the Secondary Lab (above and top-right) and provide an enlarged deck at the entrance to the building. This will create a new outside learning area as well as a pleasant space for Secondary students' morning tea and lunch. The builders moved in at the beginning of December with much of the renovation being done over the summer holidays to minimise disruption to classes.

This is a very exciting development, the first time there has been a change to this teaching space since 1979 when the Centre first opened and will enhance the experience of visiting secondary students and teachers.



Open afternoons

Over the years the Centre has only been open to the public on rare occasions but in 2010 an enthusiastic band of volunteers developed a proposal to hold Open Afternoons at the Centre on Wednesdays from 2.30 – 4.00 after the students from the visiting schools had left. This was trialled in third term and proved most popular with both volunteers and visitors. So in 2011 it has been decided to continue this program however due to the redevelopment this will not commence until April 6th. After this date we would like to invite members of the public to drop in on a Wednesday afternoon to see the animals in the collection and find out how Tasmanian students learn about our beautiful marine environment.



Text and photos courtesy Pam Elliott, Secondary Program Coordinator, Marine Discovery Centre.



Festival promotion

Links to the Antarctic and Southern Ocean were evident at the Australian Wooden Boat Festival held in Hobart in February this year.

On Sunday afternoon, TPN members were invited to a reception aboard the James Craig (above), which was moored at Princes Wharf. The ship offered an excellent view of the wooden boats of all shapes and sizes that packed the Sullivan's Cove area.

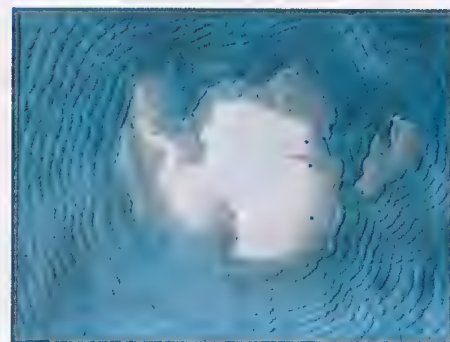


Amongst the displays in the Princes Wharf Shed No.1 was one for the Mawson's Hut Foundation and the Antarctic Centennial Year (above). The public were encouraged to join the commemorative flotilla on December 2 this year, as part of the reenactment of Mawson's departure from Hobart to Antarctica 100 years ago. Three ships will make the voyage to Antarctica and the flotilla will accompany them as far as the Iron Pot in the Derwent River.



TPN members Fiomarine, Moonraker, Liferaft Systems Australia and CSIRO also exhibited (above) in the No.1 Shed, next to some displayboards covered with small wooden boats and whales made from driftwood and scraps (below). These were made by Richard Raffan and Terry Baker respectively, from NSW.

Polar links at other Festival venues included a scrimshaw exhibition at TMAG and Stitching and Beyond, an exhibition of embroidered pictures based on maritime and Antarctic themes. Helen Drucker produced 'S.Y. Aurora in Commonwealth Bay 1912', and 'Amundsen and Fram', while Lauree Brown's 'Cold' was a map on Antarctica (below).



More information about ACY activities can be found at www.antarcticcentennial.tas.gov.au





Tasports' Antarctic update

Tasports' customers informing port decisions

Tasports is prioritising customers under a new strategic direction which centres on infrastructure and business development programs being informed by industry needs.

Tasports' Marketing Segment Manager, Karen Rees, said that Hobart's working port operations would continue to grow to support key Antarctic and Cruise operations.

"From the development of Macquarie Wharf 1 and 2 sheds, together with our wharf condition assessments and maintenance plans, Tasports' strategy is fixed on meeting the needs of our customers in the Antarctic and Cruise sectors, as well as being sympathetic to the State Government's Sullivan's Cove Master Plan and supporting public space on our waterfront," she said.

"After careful consultation with our customers and stakeholders around a design for Macquarie Wharf 2 Shed as a dedicated Antarctic and Cruise facility, our Executive Team now has an initial concept design for consideration.

The consultation process will continue and I am pleased to be able to facilitate communication between Tasports and our customers and stakeholders to ensure appropriate requirements are being reflected during this crucial design phase."

Karen's appointment to Tasports has been part of a structural change to the Corporation, which is being driven by CEO Paul Weedon.

"Commencing with Tasports early last year my focus was directed at building our customer culture and reshaping operational plans to overcome long-standing infrastructure challenges and to pursue development opportunities," Paul said.

"I am committed to ensuring that customers can operate efficient, integrated logistic chains through Tasmania's ports and developing our major ports for specific customer and industry requirements. This includes Hobart as a primary cruise ship destination and base for Antarctic supply vessels, southern ocean research and naval visits. Tasports expects to have plans for its cruise and Antarctic facility finalised during the first quarter of 2011."

Karen Rees

Segment Marketing Manager (Antarctic, Cruise and Tourism), Tasports



Tasports' Marketing Segment Manager Karen Rees discusses security programs and logistics with Tasports' Manager Security, Safety and Environment Hugh Eagling (left) and Operations Supervisor Steve Mizzen.

In addition, another attempt will be made to have Macquarie Wharf No. 1 Shed utilised by a private developer. Potential developers must consider a range of conditions, from the Sullivan's Cove Master Plan; the nature of a working port; a commercial return to Tasports; business sustainability and waterfront access to the public and berthing ships.

Top photo courtesy Derek Hagstrom, Tasports Security Supervisor, Security Operations Centre, Hobart

Umitaka Maru

On 11 November 2010, the Umitaka Maru (IMO 923 078) arrived in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, for a visit to the Waterworks Reserve. The ship was accompanied by a Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) crew and a group of cadets from the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (TUMST). The ship was on a voyage to Antarctica, during which they trawled for krill and learned how to haul blocks of ice on board for examination.

Around 30 people gathered to go aboard and we were greeted by crew and cadets and taken to a lecture room on the ship. Here we were welcomed by Captain Akira Kitazawa and were shown a video taken while the cadets were learning about their responsibilities aboard the ship, from scrubbing the wooden deck, trawling for fish and manning the bridge. The second video followed the cadets' first voyage to Antarctica, during which they trawled for krill and learned how to haul blocks of ice on board for examination.

Small groups of visitors were then taken by cadets on tours of the ship, from the bridge to the engine room; to laboratories, the galley and cabins. One room contained a simulator for learning to control the ship from the bridge. Cadets followed navigation programs based on entering actual ports. All areas of the ship were spotlessly clean and well maintained. Explanations were given in English for those not familiar with Japanese.

The tour of the ship was followed by a barbecue at the Waterworks Reserve, where the Taiko drummers welcomed the visitors. After brief speeches by the President and Vice President of the AJS, in English and Japanese, there was a welcome from a representative of the Department of Economic Development, who presented the Master with some Tasmanian gifts. The group then enjoyed a lunch of barbecued meats, salads, rice dishes and breads.

After the meal, crew members were invited to participate in Taiko drumming sessions, to the enjoyment of everyone, including a family of kookaburras, that joined in the applause. Two further sessions given by Taiko drummers were also appreciated by all who attended.

The barbecue ended by 4.00pm, when the ship's crew was taken by bus to the top of Mt Wellington before returning to the ship. Umitaka Maru departed Hobart the next day.

Above: Rob Mann, DED (R) with cadets



Umitaka Maru

Length: 93 metres
Breadth: 14.90 metres
Depth: 8.90 metres
Engines: 4 x Diesel
Average speed: 17.4 knots
Compliment: 107 crew and students

The Umitaka Maru is one of the training and research vessels owned by the Faculty of Science at the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology. The university's philosophy is "To carry out basic and applied education and research activities related to studies and to science and technologies concerning oceans, with a view to sustainable development of human society".

Umitaka Maru has undertaken voyages on all oceans of the world and provides students with advanced marine technician courses.



Misty

The last Mawson Husky



When the Aurora Australis sailed out of Hobart on 8 February it carried the ashes of Misty, the last of the Mawson huskies.

Misty was born at Mawson in 1992, came out on the Aurora in the summer of 1992/93 and spent her working life at the Voyageur Outward Bound School, Ely, Minnesota. She worked till 2002 and spent her retirement years in Indianapolis with a carer till her passing in 2007, when she was cremated.

My life and Misty's intersected at various times and through a whole series of coincidences, much patience and support and encouragement from many people, I managed to get some of Misty's ashes returned to Australia. The rest are to be scattered at Ely.

Above: Gordon Bain and Misty at Ely, 2001. Courtesy Betty Trummel.

Below: Memorial, courtesy Gordon Bain.

With help and financial support from the Antarctic Division and a financial contribution from the Tasmanian Polar Network, I had two memorial pieces created to hold Misty's ashes and as part of a standing memorial to all the huskies that contributed so magnificently to Australia's work in Antarctica from 1954 to 1992.

The second memorial piece will remain in Hobart on public display at the Australian Antarctic Division.

The memorial comprises many elements reflecting not only Misty, but also all other huskies that served with Australian expeditions in Antarctica.

- Misty's ashes are contained in a velvet bag supplied by her last owners – Frank and Judy Hashek of Indianapolis, USA.

- The velvet bag is in a box made from myrtle (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*) a cool temperature rainforest species found extensively in Tasmania but is also in Antarctica's fossil record.

- Part of the box sits on a portion of an original runner from a sledge pulled by huskies at Mawson where they had lived and worked from the station's founding in 1954 till their removal in 1992.

- The other part of the box sits on a block of Western Red Cedar representing the country in which Misty spent most of her life.

- Huskies were also used at Wilkes from 1959 when that base became a joint USA-Australian establishment prior to becoming fully Australian. Dog operations ceased in the area when 'old' Casey replaced Wilkes in 1969. The piece of weathered timber is a remnant from the tunnel of 'old' Casey Station which operated until 1988.





I passed the memorials to the Antarctic Division at a small event held at the bronze husky sculpture, and I provided an interpretive plaque to sit alongside the memorial to the ingoing Mawson Station Leader at shipside prior to sailing.

Misty will be home after an absence of 18 years, 3 months and 21 days. A small plaque on the memorial reads –

REQUIEM

*Under the wide and starry sky,
Glad did I live and gladly die.
Here she lies where she longed to be,
Home is the sailor, home from the sea.*

(Robert Louis Stevenson)

It is particularly poignant that Misty, the last Mawson husky, should be sharing her voyage home with Phil Law who took the first Mawson huskies to Antarctica when establishing the station in 1954.

Gordon Bain

Top: Gordon Bain and Mark Williams, Mawson Station Leader 2011. Courtesy Gordon Bain.

Above-left: Lyn Maddock, Director AAD, Gordon Bain and John Brennan, Chairman Tasmanian Polar Network. Courtesy AAD.

Misty and Betty Trummel at Ely, 2001. Courtesy Gordon Bain.



Polar News

New bases developing

Korea plans to build its second Antarctic research station by 2014. Called the "Jangbogo", it is named after a renowned maritime figure from the 9th century Unified Silla Kingdom.

The 4,300 square meter base, consisting of research centres and residences, will be completed by a Hyundai Engineering & Construction-led consortium on the eastern Terra-Nova Bay by 2014.

In order to minimize effects on the environment, the base will be operated under renewable energy systems and energy conserving systems that use solar and wind power, as well as waste heat and natural light. The station will be partly pre-assembled in Korea before the final phase of construction takes place in Antarctica.

"Jangbogo", will enable Korea to have the capabilities for climate change studies, geological characteristics and seismic activities. Currently, Korea has its first Antarctic King Sejong base on King George Island and the Dasan base in the Arctic.

India's third research station, named 'Bharati', will be completed in two years. The research facility will include an earth station, to be built by ISRO, for enabling faster sharing of information gathered from satellites and ground laboratories with institutions.

The Indian government has also approved refurbishment of the existing research station 'Maitri', to equip it with modern facilities. In addition, India will collaborate with Norway, to improve much-needed bi-hemispherical research, because both regions govern the earth's climate.

Russia will transfer Gora Vechernyaya Station to Belarus, so that more independent research can take place. Expeditioners will work in tandem with those at Molodyozhnaya station, which is situated nearby.

This arrangement was made earlier this year at a meeting between Artur Chilingarov, the special envoy of the Russian president for international Arctic and Antarctica cooperation, and Vladimir Tsalko, the Belarusian minister of natural resources and environment.

Just a bit closer

This year, Russian scientists are preparing to cap a 20-year effort to explore 4 km below the surface of Antarctica's ice, reaching Lake Vostok. The continent's oldest subglacial lake - 14 million years old - this isolated body of freshwater may yield access to life forms never glimpsed by man. One study suggests the conditions in the lake are most similar to the moons of Jupiter and Saturn, suggesting links to extraterrestrial life. Before research drills chopped into it, this piece of Antarctic ice had been undisturbed for more than 1 million years.

The Russians' drill bit sits lodged in ice 100 metres above the lake. Once the bore hole reaches within 20 to 30 metres of water, the mechanical drill bit will be replaced by a thermal lance equipped with a camera. Drilling that deep is slow going and if the team does not pierce through to the lake this austral summer, they may be forced to wait another year to draw samples from the pristine reservoir.

Beneath the ice

A robotic submarine, will soon be giving scientists their first direct look at melting glaciers, which many consider to be vital references for tracking climate change.

A 28-foot-long, cigar-shaped submarine will collect information and retrieving samples from beneath the floating Ross Ice Shelf, in western Antarctica. The sub-ice rover, nicknamed SIR, will observe melting right where seawater meets the glacier's base. The submarine, which weighs about one tonne and collapses to 56 cms in diameter to fit through the holes, will remain tethered and powered to a control centre on the surface throughout the surveys, which are expected to last up to about 10 days at a time.

SIR's science gear includes five cameras, a robot arm to gather samples and a host of other instruments and sensors to track currents, sample water, measure distances and map the seafloor.

SIR will begin trials in Antarctica in late 2011 and if successful, will be set to slide down 800 metres long, 76 cms wide ice boreholes and surfacing up others 19 km away.

Student awards

The Royal Society of Tasmania's Macquarie Island Essay Competition 2010 was won by Kings Meadows High School student Charlotte Lloyd.

Each year, research topics are chosen by Mary Koolhof, a teacher and Royal Society member, and interested students are assisted by their teachers and compete for a prize of \$200..

This year's topic will be based on Sir Douglas Mawson. Details can be downloaded from the Royal Society's website: www.rst.org.au



Pole to Pole

Eric Philips of Ictrek Expeditions will guide former federal politician and ultra-distance runner Pat Farmer on the polar legs of his Pole to Pole Run expedition - www.poletopolerun.com.

Together with cameramen Wade Fairley and Clark Carter, the team departs from North Pole on April 2, 2011 and head south across the Arctic Ocean towards Canada, towing sleds with 30 days supplies. After almost 400km, at 86°30', they will receive a resupply, and then continue south another 400km to the north coast of Ellesmere Island, Canada, arriving mid-late May.

From here the team is picked up by charter plane and flown to Resolute then on to Yellowknife where Pat begins his run south to Punta Arenas, Chile. From Punta Arenas they fly to Antarctica and begin the South Pole ski trek from Hercules Inlet in early December, expecting to reach the South Pole in the last week of January.

Pat is attempting the longest individual run on earth to raise money for water projects across the globe. The 21,000 km distance will be run in two marathons every day for 11 months, from April 2011 to February 2011.

The Pole to Pole Run will highlight both the environmental impacts of water issues and the difference that clean, accessible water can make for people living on every continent.

As Pat's own journey from the North to South Pole unfolds, the funds raised will help directly deliver water access and sanitation programs.

Pat's target is \$100 million and donations can be made to the Red Cross.

Hut plans lodged

The Hobart City Council has given in-principle approval for the Mawson's Huts Foundation to make a full-scale replica of Mawson's Hut near Constitution Dock on Hobart's waterfront. The proposal has now been submitted to the Sullivan's Cove Waterfront Authority.

The hut would sit on concrete block footings, avoiding any excavation, and the site would be restored after two years. With a floor area of 143 sq m, the hut would duplicate the one used by Sir Douglas Mawson as a base for his 1911-14 Australasian Antarctic Expedition. Completion of the replica is expected by December 2 this year, the centenary of Mawson's departure for Antarctica. A model of Mawson's Hut is already part of TMAG's 'Islands to Ice' Exhibition.

Deep sea latitudes

Researchers have recently developed the first map of sea floor animals from the Equator to Antarctica. Using collections from 24 museums, tropical, temperate and polar species were found to be distributed in bands across the oceans, rather than within separate oceans.

The species model used was the brittle-star, similar to starfish, which inhabits all oceans. Scientists are still unable to explain why deep sea creatures, which live in less changeable environmental conditions, exist in three latitudinal bands similar to creatures in variable conditions on land and in shallow coastal waters,

Runway unused

Wilkins Aerodrome in Antarctica has been unused this season because of unusually warm temperatures. The runway, which opened in 2008, sits on 700 m of ice, inland from Casey Station.

According to Rob Harman, SKM surveyor, 'The ambient temperature needs to be low enough (below -5 degrees C) so that the ice has as much friction as possible. The ground crew use a Casborer machine to create a fluffy icy surface on the blue ice. Aircraft land at Wilkins at around 7am which is hopefully the coldest time of day. The runway itself is approximately 2% uphill grade and 3.6km long. Pulling up isn't really the issue but the manoeuvring during taxiing at each end. A decent breeze will blow the aircraft sideways (and possibly off the runway) as the tyres will have very little traction if at all.

During a landing, the tyres will leave a skid mark on the ice and the prepared surface is usually blown away too, due to the engine thrust.'

The Airbus A319 has been flying to Christchurch, NZ and USA's McMurdo Station in Antarctica, when not able to land at Wilkins

CO₂-chomping microbes

Battling for ocean iron

Australian, Belgian and New Zealand scientists have expanded our understanding of the way phytoplankton take up scarce iron in the ocean - a process that regulates ocean food chains from the bottom up and helps remove up to 40 per cent of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere.

Research published recently in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science explores the relationship between iron, which limits primary productivity in vast regions of the ocean, and its uptake by phytoplankton species.

It has identified how natural organic compounds in the Southern Ocean can control iron availability to phytoplankton in iron-deficient waters and, in particular, for high-nutrient but low-chlorophyll regions.

"The anaemic regions of the oceans are a 'battlefield' for iron, which drives photosynthesis and enhances growth of phytoplankton and other microbes in the oceanic food chain for the benefit of all marine species," said the project team's leader, former CSIRO Postdoctoral Fellow and now University of Technology Sydney researcher, Dr Christel Hassler.

Ocean chemists are eager to know more about this process, which mediates uptake of CO₂ and its subsequent storage in the ocean interior, as species die and sink.

This research reveals the significance of a newly identified organic mechanism controlling the bio-availability of iron to oceanic life," Dr Hassler said.

According to co-author, CSIRO's Dr Carol Nichols, given that marine phytoplankton contribute up to 40 per cent of global biological carbon fixation, it is important to understand what features control the availability of iron to these organisms.

Phytoplankton and other microbes living in the oceans produce long sugar polymers, or polysaccharides, as a survival strategy," Dr Nichols said. "Polysaccharides help the microbial community stick to each other and to nutrients that may otherwise be difficult to access from the surrounding ocean.

Working with laboratory cultures of Southern Ocean phytoplankton, the study shows that biologically-produced polysaccharides help keep iron accessible to phytoplankton by increasing its solubility in the upper layers of the oceans where photosynthesis occurs.

In the ocean, most of the iron is bound to organic materials whose nature is largely unknown. Most marine microorganisms release saccharides or sugars, resulting in high levels being reported. These observations originally motivated our study," Dr Nichols said.

Iron fertilisation of the ocean has long been mooted as an option to engineer change in the amount of CO₂ in the ocean. "If we can understand the processes behind cycling of iron and other micronutrients in the oceans more fully, then we will be in a better position to counsel on proposals for such environmental engineering," Dr Nichols said.

Top: Niskin X bottles being deployed to collect samples of seawater to be tested for iron levels. Photo courtesy Dr. Andrew Bowie, ACE CRC, UTAS.

Left: CSIRO's Dr Edward Butler collecting seawater samples in a clean container in which the air is filtered to remove any contaminating particles. Photo courtesy Roslyn Watson, CSIRO.





Thick Multiyear Sea Ice. Photo courtesy Esmee Vanwijk.



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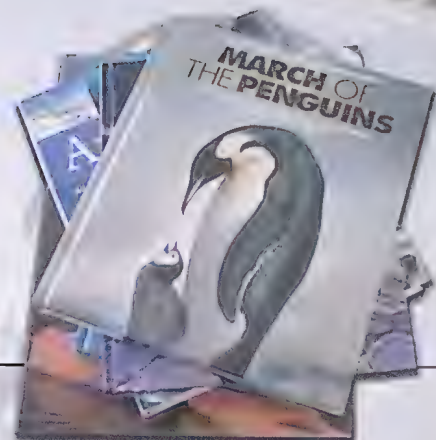
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Polar Publications



BOOK

The Penguin Book of the Ocean

James Bradley (ed)
Published by Hamish Hamilton
Price: \$35.00

Contains a diverse collection of stories and poems exploring the ocean's vastness and beauty, often with the theme of the ocean as 'a metaphor for unexplored depths'.

BOOK

Canada's North: What's the Plan?

Thomas Berger, Steven Kennett, Hayden King
Published by Conference Board of Canada
Price: Free from www.conferenceboard.ca/documents.aspx?did=3905

Three scholars' viewpoints of land-use planning: 'keep it up, fix it up and give it up' Lectures from the 2010 CIBC Scholar-in-Residence lecture program, which offers Northerners involvement in identifying challenges and opportunities to be met.

BOOK

Atlas of Remote Islands

Judith Schalansky
Published by Particular Books
Price: \$39.95

The author has created an atlas of 50 remote islands, each with maps and the residents' strange stories.

BOOK

Climbing the Pole: Edmund Hillary & the Trans-Antarctic Expedition 1955-1958

John Thomson
Published by Erskine Press
Price: £15

Describes Hillary's reasons for his challenge to his expedition leader, Vivian Fuchs, to have a race to the Pole.

BOOK

Great Endeavor: Ireland's Antarctic Explorers

Michael Smith
Published by The Collins Press
Price: £27

This book comprehensively traces Ireland's link with Antarctic discovery, spanning 200 years. Includes many previously unknown stories and photos of early explorers as well as 21st century adventurers.

BOOK

The South Pole: An account of the Norwegian Antarctic Expedition in the Fram 1910-1912

Roald Amundsen, R. Huntford
Published by Fram Museum
Price: \$20.00

This account of Roald Amundsen and his team reaching the South Pole was originally published in two volumes in 1913. The text in this single volume is supported by many black & white photos and maps.

PLAY

Heat

Written by New Zealand playwright Linda Chanwai-Earle, this was played in Wellington in February this year. Set in an isolated research hut in Antarctica over winter, it focuses on two scientists, Stella and John and a sick Emperor Penguin called Bob, a man covered in penguin body paints!

ONLINE

Breaking the Ice – reports from Aurora Australis

ABC's Karen Barlow
blogs.abc.net.au/news/breaking-the-ice/

Cool Antarctica

Paul Ward, U.K.
www.coolantarctica.com

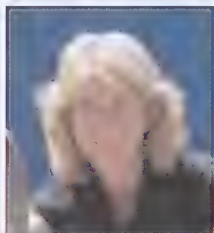
Contains a wide range of information about history, cruises, clothes, whales, and books

Google

maps.google.com

Google's Street View is now extended to Antarctica, although the imagery is still limited and only shows panoramas of the coast and penguins of Half Moon Island. The shots are a combination of Google and user photographs, as their usual adapted cars are unusable.

Ice Birds



Terrie Williams

Born: 1954

Occupation: Large animal physiologist (USA)

Notable Expeditions: Antarctica: McMurdo Sound; Alaska: Aleutian Islands and Prince William Sound

Award: Wings 2007 Sea Award
– www.wingsworldquest.org

Website: <http://bio.research.ucsc.edu/people/williams/antarctic/index.html>

Water Expedition

Ann Bancroft and Liv Arnesen will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Roald Amundsen being the first man to reach the South Pole, by arranging an international team of women to follow his route. The team of 6 women will start the expedition at the Bay of Whales in October 2011 and hope to reach the Pole in January 2012. The educational theme of the expedition will be Water – to draw attention to the current global water crisis. More details on YourExpedition.com



Meenakshi Wadhwa

Born: 1967

Occupation: Planetary scientist (India)

Notable Expedition: Hunting for meteorites in Antarctica:

Award: Wings 2003 Air and Space Award – www.wingsworldquest.org

Website: fm1.fieldmuseum.org/aa/staff_page.cgi?staff=wadhwa



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Tasmania's
TRADE LINK with the
WORLD
 TasPorts

15	March	2011	TPN Committee meeting 4-5pm ATSR offices. Hobart. Tasmania.
17	March	2011	TPN meeting and Strategic Plan meeting CCAMLR 3.00 onwards.
17-18	March	2011	International Conference on Arctic Marine Science, International Law and Climate Protection Berlin, Germany.
18	March	2011	Last day for entries in the Extreme Environment Photographic Competition.
27	March	2011-	Arctic Science Summit Week. Seoul, Korea.
1	April	2011	
2	April	2011	Pat Farmer starts his Pole to Pole run from the North Pole.
12	April	2011	3rd Portuguese Conference of Polar Sciences. Ciombria, Portugal.
2-4	May	2011	11th Conference on Polar Meteorology and Oceanography. Boston, Massachusetts, USA.
6	May	2011	Antarctic Centenary Year launch and Extreme Environment Photographic Competition opening. TMAG, Hobart, Tasmania.
9-12	May	2011	IAATO Conference. Hobart, Tasmania. For further details: www.iaato.org .
17-19	May	2011	5th International Antarctic Conference Kyiv, Ukraine. Entitled 'Antarctic and Earth Global Systems: New Challenges and Outlooks. Email: uac@uac.gov.au .
14	June	2011	TPN committee meeting 4-5pm ATSR offices, Hobart, Tasmania.
14-15	June	2011	5th Malaysian International Seminar on Antarctica (MISA5) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Held in conjunction with the 22nd Pacific Science Conference. Theme: Rapid Warming in the Polar Regions and its implications in the Pacific.
16	June	2011	TPN meeting (to be confirmed). Hobart, Tasmania.
17	June	2011	Melbourne Midwinter Dinner and Tasmanian ANARE Club Midwinter Dinner Details: www.anareclub.org.au .
18	June	2011	Adelaide Midwinter Dinner.
18-26	June	2011	Longest Night Film Festival. State Cinema, Hobart, Tasmania.
20	June	2011-	ATCM XXXIV-CEP XV. Buenos Aires, Argentina.
1	July	2011	
22-24	June	2011	Meteorological Observation, Modeling and Forecasting Workshop. Hobart, Tasmania.
24	June	2011	Canberra Midwinter Dinner. For further details: www.anareclub.org.au .
25	June	2011	NSW ANARE Club Midwinter Dinner.
28	June	2011-	General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics. Theme: Earth on Edge: Science for a Sustainable Planet. Session J-P01 session The Southern Ocean in a changing world. Melbourne, Victoria.
7	July	2011	
29	June	2011-	SCAR Astronomy and Astrophysics from Antarctica. Sydney, NSW.
1	July	2011	
10-16	July	2011	ISAES XI-11th International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences. Edinburgh, Scotland.
31	July	2011	Philip Law Memorial Lecture. Hobart, Tasmania.
1-2	August	2011	Sub-Antarctic Forum www.sub-antarctic.org . Hobart, Tasmania.

centenary.antarctica.gov.au antarcticcentennial.tas.gov.au
www.environment.gov.au/about/media/events www.scar.org/events



Sea Shepherd Success!

Gojira, courtesy Thomas Jupe.

Steve Irwin and Bob Barker, courtesy Derek Hagstrom.





Shipping

11	March	2011	Spirit of Enderby	VT9	Arrives Lyttleton, NZ
16-18	March	2011	Aurora Australis	V3	Arrive Hobart, depart for Davis station
29-31	March	2011	Aurora Australis	V4	Davis station
5-7	April	2011	Aurora Australis	V4	Casey Station
15-17	April	2011	Aurora Australis	V4	Arrives Hobart, departs for Macquarie Island
20-28	April	2011	Aurora Australis	V5	Macquarie Island
1	May	2011	Aurora Australis	V5	Arrives Hobart. Off-hire.

Flights

1	March	2011	Airbus A319	FA09A,B	Hobart to Wilkins and return
4	March	2011	Airbus A319	FAUS11A	Christchurch to McMurdo and return

Moorings on Aurora Australis. Photo courtesy Esmee Vanwijk.



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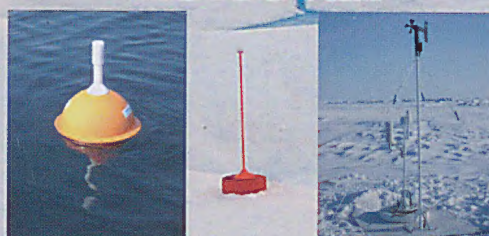


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- Compact Arctic Drifter Buoys
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- Various Sensor Drifting Buoys

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AXYS Technologies

Wave & Ocean Monitoring Systems including:

- Wave, Current & Water Monitoring
- Ocean Observation Platforms
- Coastal Observation Platforms
- Port Monitoring Systems



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